PERRY'S MUSICAL MAGAZINE

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50th YEAR

SEDALIA, MO., JULY, 1931

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LIVES OF GREAT PIANISTS.

Beethoven, Louis Van.

(Continued From Last Month.)

to be hostile, obstinate or misanthropic, easy-for the artist, more difficult than for secret causes of that which to you wears my misery; thou knowest that it is accomciety, I was forced at an early age to re- men." pleasures of conversation, from the effusions over disappointed hopes in a man. of friendship, I am cut off. Almost alone in position; though hurried away by my fond new trouble; for in listening for the coming by seeing so much fine talk put into the

ness for society, I sometimes suffered my- in of the different parts, he would unconself to be enticed into it. But what a humil- sciously retard the time and mislead the iation, when anyone standing beside me performers, and sometimes get involved in could hear at a distance a flute that I could serious altercations with them. not hear, or av one heard the shenherd singing, and I could not distinguish a sound Such circumstances brought me to the brink neighboring monarch. This roused the pride of despair, and had well nigh made me put of some of his noble patrons, who subscribed an end to my life; nothing but my art held an annuity of four thousand florins for him, my hand. Ah, it seemed to me impossible on condition that he would not leave Austo quit the world before I had produced all tria. A depreciation of the currency reduced that I felt myself called to accomplish. And this sum to one fifth, and the death of one so I endured this wretched life-so truly subscriber, and the failure of another, rewretched, that a somewhat speedy change is duced it still further; so that he relied capable of transporting me from the best into the worst condition. Patience-so I am done so. Steadfast, I hope, will be my resoinexorable Fates to cut the thread. Perhaps there may be amendment-perhaps not; I am prepared for the worst-I, who "For My Brothers, Carl and Bee- so early as my twenty-eighth year, was thoven.-O ye, who consider or declare me forced to become a philosopher-it is not Beethoven. what injustice ye do me! Ye know not the any other. O God, thou lookest down upon such an appearance. My heart and my mind panied with love of my fellow-creatures, and nately secretes himself; one in the country, were from childhood prone to the tender a disposition to do good! O men, when ye one in town, and a third on the ramparts. feelings of affection. Nay, I was always shall read this, think that ye have wronged It was there I found him, on the third floor. disposed ever to perform great actions. But me; and let the child of affliction take com- I entered unannounced; he was seated at the consider that for the last six years I have fort on finding one like himself, who, in piano; I gave my name; he was most friendbeen attacked by an incurable complaint, spite of all the imperfections of nature, yet ly, and asked me if I would hear a song etc. * * * Born with a lively, ardent dispo- did all that lay in his power to obtain ad- which he had just been composing, and sang sition, susceptible to the diversions of so mittance into the rank of worthy artists and with a shrill and piercing voice that made

sion. If I strove at any time to set myself roic Symphony," which was not finished till he, enthusiastically; 'exquisitely beautiful! above all this, O, how cruelly was I driven 1804. It was intended in honor of Napoleon, I will sing it again.' He was pleased with back by the doubly painful experience of to whom Beethoven, in the simplicity of his my cheerful praise. 'Most people,' he remy defective hearing! And yet it was not enthusiasm for freedom, looked upon as the marked, 'are moved on hearing music, but possible for me to say to people, 'Speak hero of democracy.' The score lay before these have not musicians souls; true musilouder, bawl, for I am deaf!' Ah, how could him, neatly printed, and dedicated to the cians are too fiery to weep.' He then sang I proclaim the defect of a sense that I once First Consul, when the news was brought to another song of yours, which he had just possessed in the highest perfection-in a him that Napoleon had caused himself to be been composing: 'Dry not, dry not, ye tears,' perfection in which few of my colleagues proclaimed Emperor of the French. Instant. etc. He accompanied me home, and it was possess or ever did possess it! Indeed, I ly he tore off the title page and flung the during our walk that he said all these fine cannot! Forgive me, then, if ye see me work upon the floor; and it was long before things on the art-talking so loud all the draw back when I would gladly mingle he could be induced to give his mind to it while, and standing still so often, that it among you. Doubly mortifying is my mis- again. When he did, he changed its title required some courage to listen to him in the fortune to me, as it must tend to cause me to "Heroic Symphony, to celebrate the Mem-street. He ,however, spoke so passionately, to be misconceived. From recreation in the ory of a Great Man"-and the famous fu- and all that he uttered startled me so, that society of my fellow-creatures, from the neral march became rather a lamentation I forgot even the street. They were all not

the world, I dare not venture into society 1804-05, the story history of whose first pro- large dinner party. After dinner he sat more than absolute necessity requires. I am duction we may not stop to relate. He found down to the instrument and played unasked, obliged to live as an exile. If I go into com- his peace again in a form of art where there wonderfully, and at great length." * * * pany, a painful anxiety overcomes me, since were no singers to consult, no opera man-I am apprehensive of being exposed to the ager or public to please, only his own artist ful sayings ascribed to Beethoven in this danger of betraying my situation. Such has tic ideal, namely, in the symphony. The letter; the reader will find it entire in the been my state, too, during this half year that years 1806 08 witnessed the production of "Correspondence of Goethe with a Child," I have spent in the country. Enjoined by his fourth, fifth and sixth symphonies—the a translation of which was published in my intelligent physician to spare my hearing last two being the one in C minor and the Lowell, Massachusetts, some years since. as much as possible, I have been almost en- "Pastorale." He directed the orchestra him-

In 1809, he was tempted to leave Vienna by the offer of a good situation from a mainly on his compositions for support.

It was in 1810 that he met, perhaps, the told-I must choose for my guide. I have most appreciating spirit with whom he ever conversed, in the person of the girl Bettine lution to persevere, till it shall please the Brentano, of Frankfort, who seems to have passed in and out unannounced among people of genius, by a sort of divine right; and whose letters to Goethe contain some of the best things which have been said concerning

"I could not get any one to introduce me," she says, "but I found him out alone. He has three apartments, in which he alterthe hearer thrill with woefullness, 'Knowest nounce them, and to pass my life in seclu- In 1802, Beethoven commenced his "He thou the land.' 'Is it not beautiful?' said a little surprised at home on seeing me en-"Fidelio" occupied him exclusively in ter the room with him, in the midst of a

We have not room for the many wonder-

Schindler (the biographer to whom we are couraged by him in my present natural dis-self. But here again his deafness caused indebted chiefly for our facts) is disturbed in London in 1844.)

all of that nature that he could escape from the keys so lightly that they gave no sound. public)—all these things served to cloud and then into his inner world of art. They rather "The most painful thing of all was to hear depress him. But he trusted in his soul. favored the creative impulse. Disappointed him improvise on stringed instruments, ow- There was that in him that was greater than love, deafness, want of worldly tact, which, ing to his incapacity of tuning them. The fate. Inwardly he felt allied with the good if it drew him into many dilemmas, also music which he thus produced was frightful, and all-prevailing Power, the soul and esbrought him exemption from many cares, though in his mind it was pure and harmo- sence of all things. He felt that God was and his proud, independent spirit—these nious." Let his deafness convince those, near to him in his art. He had been true, only made his abstraction from the outward who are spiritually deaf to his works, that and bowed to no meanness; he had sacriworld more complete, and increased his feel- music is more a thing of the soul than of ficed self, and wrought for truth and beauty ing of the greatness of his mission. Ab- the sense! straction, entire devotion to his art, and living in music, is the key to all his peculiarities and eccentricities in his way of living. Inspired with new musical suggestions, he would even forget his food. Thus there is a story of his going into an inn, and throwing himself down upon a seat, buried in thought; after some time he rose and called for the reckoning, quite unconscious that he had ordered nothing. One of his habits was to stand by the hour pouring buckets of cold water upon his hands, while in the frenzy of composition. And this may have had something to do with his frequent change of lodging; for often he would be paying for three or four dwellings places at oncesince his humor would have it that now he could not compose unless he were on the north side, and now unless he were on the south side of the city. Once a certain baron assigned him to a suite of apartments in his beautiful villa, and supremely happy was he as he surveyed the charming landscape from his window; yet he soon took a dislike to the place, and for no other reason than because "the baron, whenever he met him, was continually making too profound obeisances to him." He was extremewould often walk alone, absorbed in his anecdote:

'I can give you no lesson today. I must read the short, pithy, burning sentences. work."

mouth of the downright laconic artist; and piano, at which he was fond of seating him-chained to the rock of necessity. Deafness

his life, Beethoven was subjected to calam- greatest of his works (as time is slowly and ities, which served not so much to abstract surely discovering) were produced in those him from the world as to distract him alto- dark days. His Mass (the second, in D) gether. He was forced into relations with which he composed for the installation of the practical side of life, and with the self- the Archduke Rudolph as Archbishop of ishness of the world, which he knew how Olmutz, he himself esteemed his greatest. sponsibility was strong; and he would leave the immortal Schiller's 'Hymn to Joy;' " ly fond of the country and the open air, and no stone unturned to secure to himself the and a choir of voices accordingly are inwork ,till the day was far spent, nay, be whose welfare he studiously devoted him- atas and quartets of that period, which gone for days. Ries relates the following self. Meanwhile, too, in preparation for his bring the number of his printed works up "In a walk, in which we wandered about ing, of which, with his bachelor inexperience ginning to be understood, yet are fast outa great while before we got home, Beetho- and eccentricities, he of course made a sor- growing the prejudice that they are only ven had kept all the way muttering or part- ry piece of work-petty vexations all the the wild and outre effusions of a mind nearly howling to himself, up and down contin- time. Finally, the boy, who had fine talents, ly insane. Indeed, this insanity bids fair to ually, without singing any definite notes. and of whom no father could be more fond be the wisdom of ages to come. To my inquiry what it was he answered, than he, proved unworthy and ungrateful, 'A theme has just occurred to me for the and poisoned his last source of worldly hope. him in the surrounding darkness. What last allegro of my sonata (Op. 57).' When His letters to the young man (see Mos-must have been his feelings when, after we entered his room, he ran to the piano, cheles) in 1825, possess a most mournful in long withdrawal from the public, his place without taking off his hat. I seated my terest, and exhibit his deep sensibility, his usurped by the modern showy style, he reself in a corner ,and he soon forgot all conscientious regard for duty, the struggle ceived a letter signed by many of the about me. And now he thundered away at between his tender love and his stern, un-noblest names, of persons who had a sense least an hour at the new and beautiful finale compromising sense of truth, in the noblest for genuine art, calling upon him, for the of that composition. Finally he stood up, and most affecting light. We pity and ad-honor of music and of Germany, to appear astonished to see me still there, and said, mire the noble minded sufferer when we once more, and suffer his Mass and "Choral

Everything seemed to conspire to try the concert. Think, too, of his improvisations on the endurance of the high-souled Prometheus,

Bettine adds, that when she showed Bee- self in the dusk of the evening. "In the now become almost total, decay of general thoven what she had written, he exclaimed, latter part of his life, his playing at such health, anxiety about the means of subsist-"And did I say all this? Then indeed I had times was more painful than agreeable to ence, the intrigues of enemies, the death of a raptus!" But the letters which he wrote those who heard it. The inward mind alone his old friend, Prince Lichnowsky, and, to her a short time after, when she had was active; the outward sense no longer above all, the degeneracy of public taste in become the wife of Von Arnim, are in quite co-operated with it. Sometimes he would Vienna, (the florid, sensuous manner of Rosas high a strair, and quite as fluent. |See lay his left hand flat upon the keyboard, and sini having carried all before it like a flood, Life of Beethoven, by Moscheles, published thus drown, in discordant noise, the music so that he, Beethoven, was now considered to which his right was feelingly giving ut- out of date, though several of his noblest Thus far (1913) Beethoven's troubles were terance." In the soft passages he pressed compositions had never yet been heard in with a single aim. So that even now his In the last twelve or thirteen years of creative energies did not fail him. The to renounce, but to engage in which, unfit- He made a subscription for a certain numted as he was, could only craze and be ber of copies of it among the crowned heads wilder him. He got involved in a provoking of Europe; and it is remarkable that Goethe, lawsuit with Maelzel, the inventor of the to whom he wrote as prime minister to the metronome, who, it seems, had unfairly ap- Duke of Weimar, found it convenient to repropriated the score of one of his sympho-turn no answer to his old friend. The minnies (called the "Battle of Vittoria," not ister of the King of Prussia suggested to reckoned among his nine great sympho- Beethoven whether he would rather receive nies); this increased his suspicion of men, a royal diploma in lieu of the price proand made him watch his copyists with the posed. "Fifty ducats!" replied Beethoven utmost jealousy. Again, in 1815, his brother firmly, to whom all the badges princes Carl died, leaving him the guardianship of could bestow were no temptation. At the his son, since the mother was considered same time his brain was teeming with the an unsafe person to whom to intrust the ed- conception of his gigantic "Choral Symphoucation of a child. Hence another lawsuit, ny," his ninth and last, in which, having continued through several years, subjecting exhausted all the usual orchestral effects, him to all manner of mortifications and dis- and being at a loss how to carry out his tractions, quite breaking the calm heaven thought on so sublime a scale, he at last of the creative artist. But his sense of re- exclaimed, "I have it! Friends, let us sing undisputed guardianship of the boy, to troduced. These works, as well as the sonnew duties, he had undertaken housekeep to about one hundred and forty, are but be-

Some few bright signs there were to cheer Symphony" to be performed at a benefit

(To Be Continued.)

HAPPY SCOUT

MARCH



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THE SWAN MORCEAU DE SALON

By G. HOLCOMBE

"Oft have you seen a swan superbly frowning, And with proud breast his own white shadow crowning; He slants his neck beneath the waters bright So silently, it seems a beam of light."



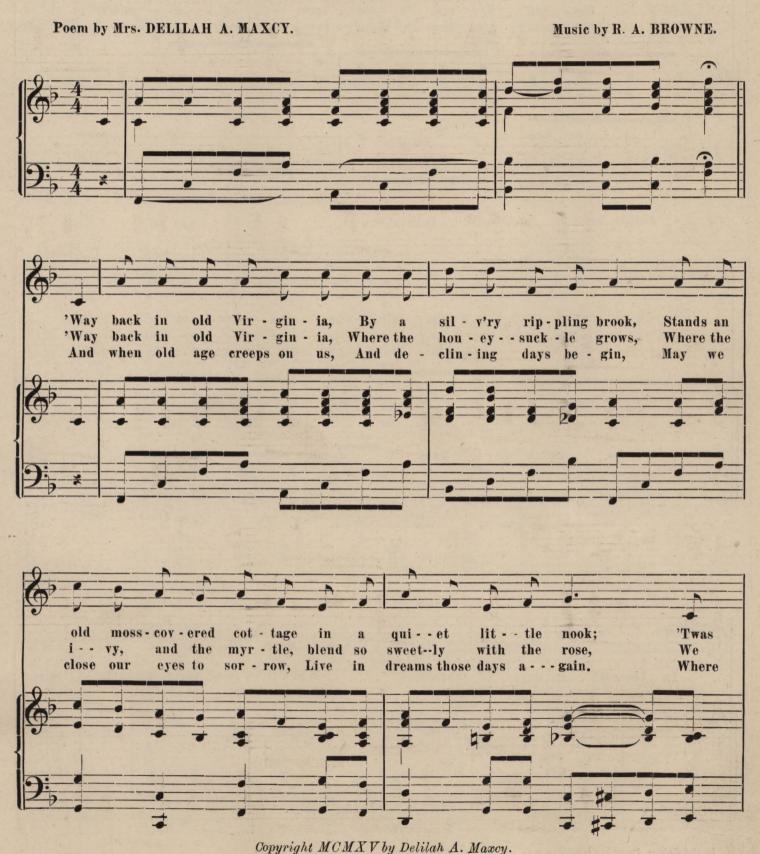


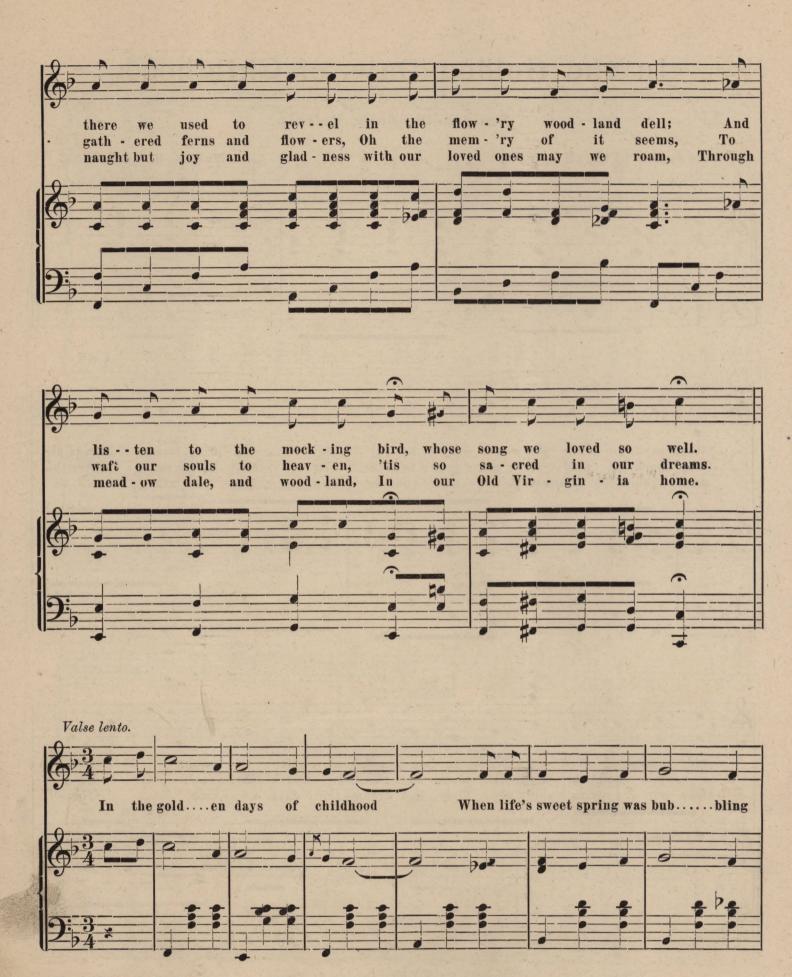


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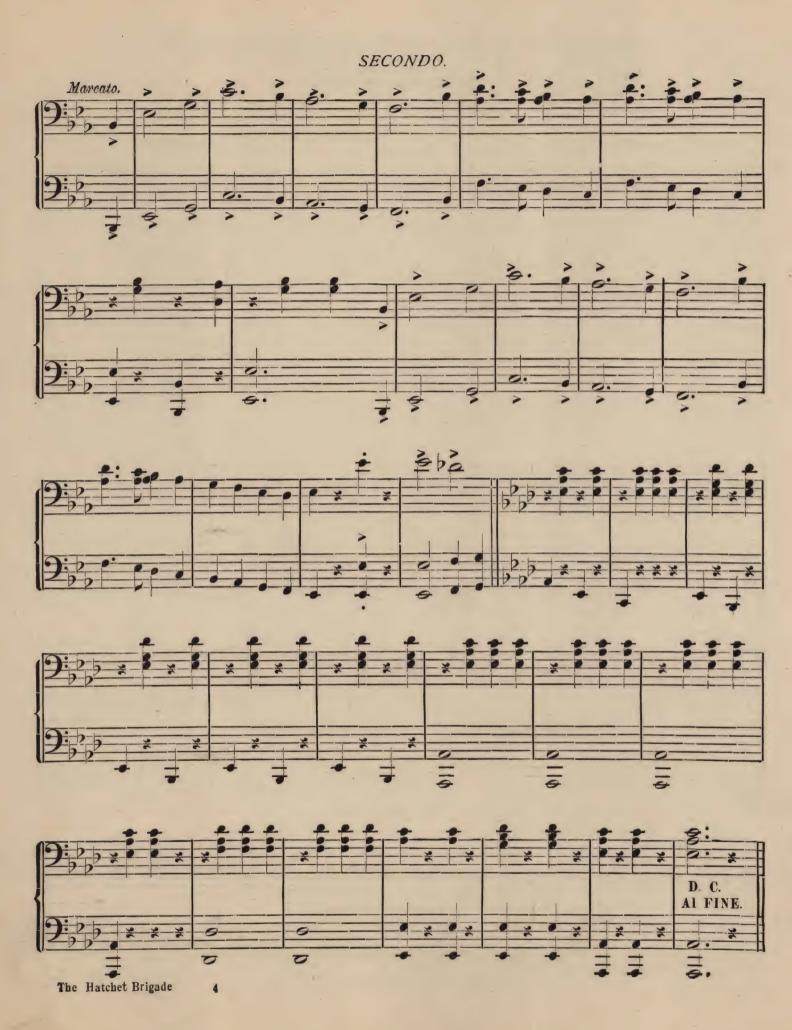
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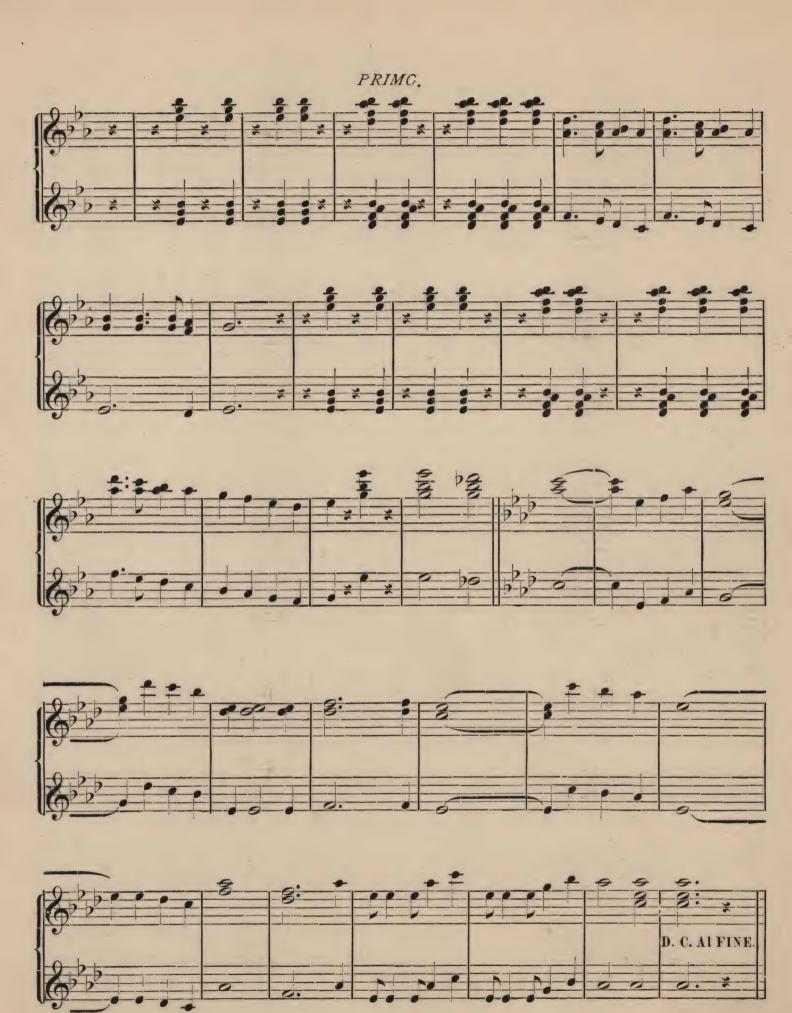
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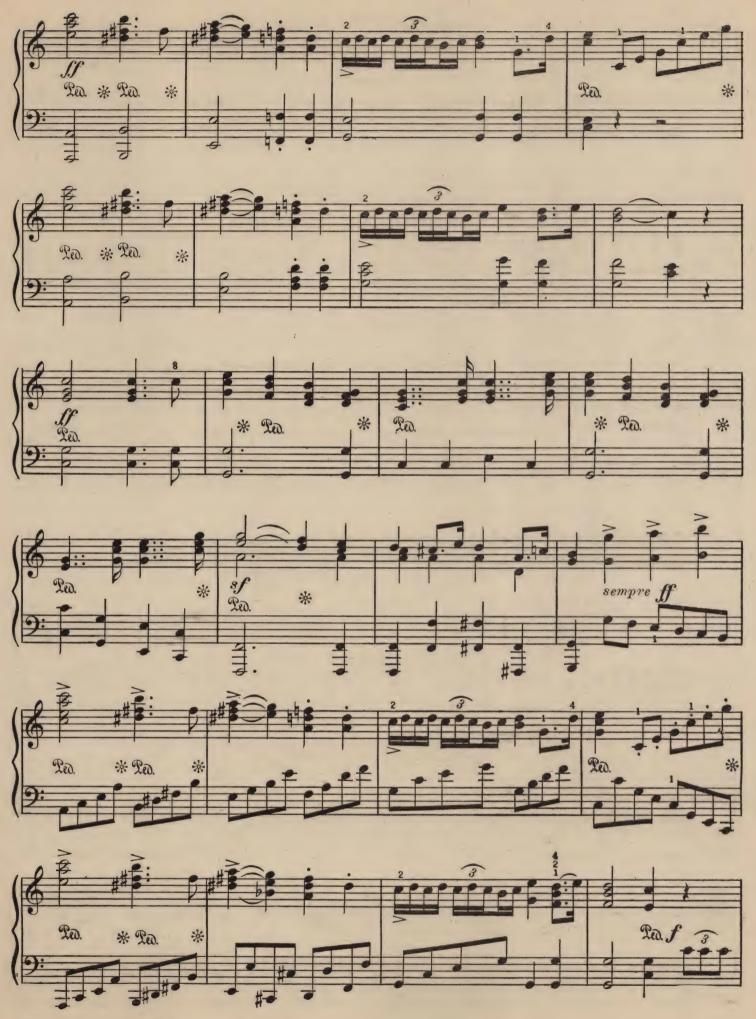
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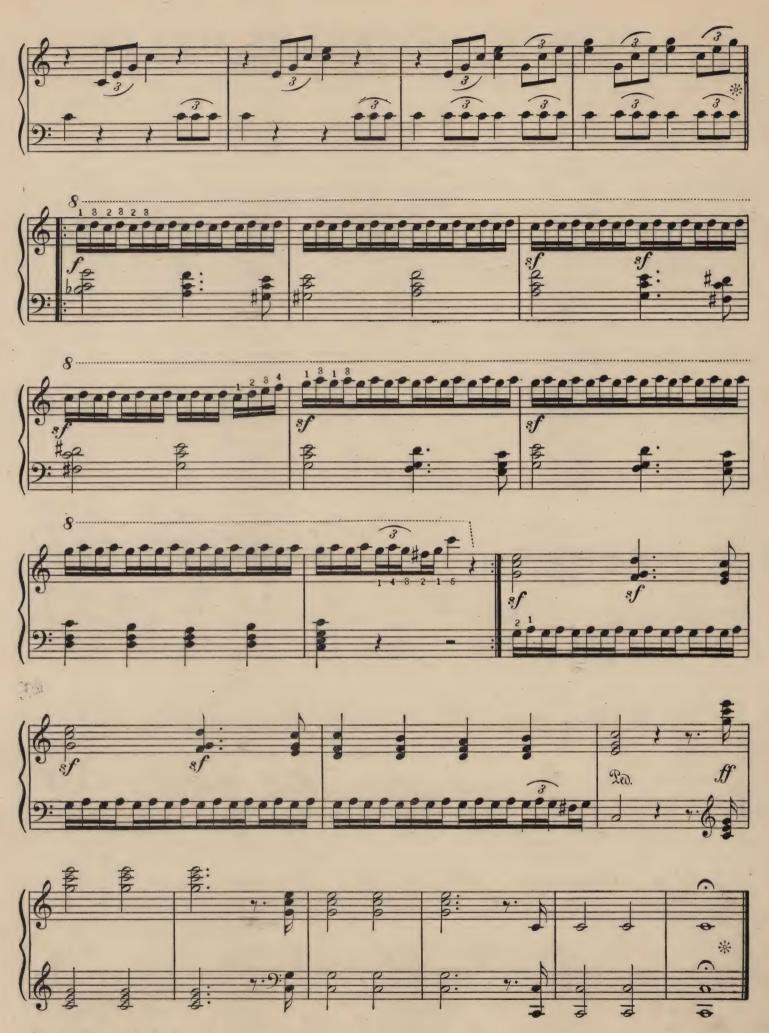




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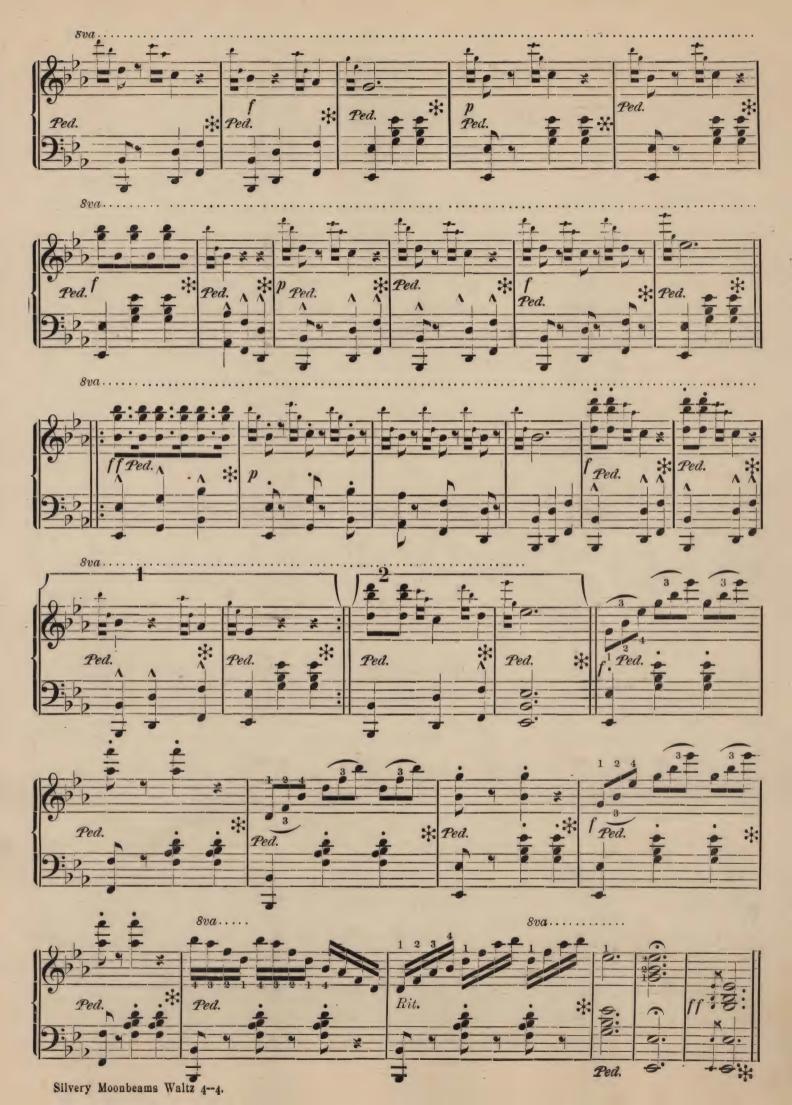
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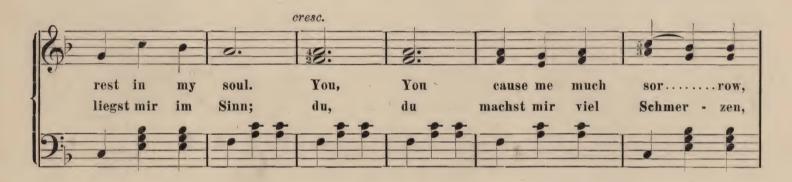
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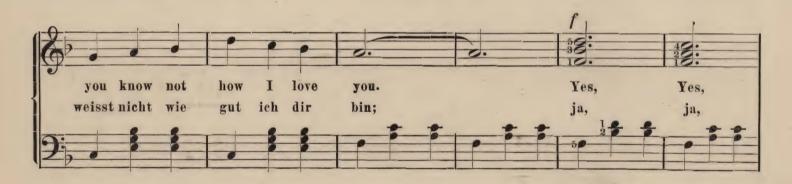
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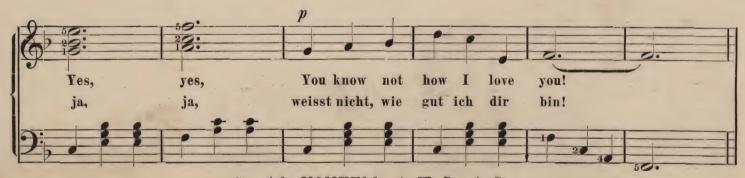
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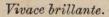








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